

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 AGR-20 EB-11 COM-08 TRSE-00 IO-14

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CEA-02

SWF-02 STR-08 CIEP-03 /181 R

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S/PR - MR. KING (INFO)

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P 141834Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS QUERIES ON FOOD AID TO INDIA

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE USED WITH AP AND NY TIMES CORRESPONDENTS SEPTEMBER 13 ALTHOUGH TOPIC DID NOT COME UP IN NOON PRESS BRIEFING. REPORTERS' INTEREST STIRRED BY WEINRAUB PIECES AND SEPTEMBER 13 PRESS BREAKFAST WITH TIKKI KAUL.

2. QUESTION: HAVE THE INDIANS APPROACHED US ABOUT FOOD?

ANSWER: THE INDIANS HAVE DESCRIBED TO US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THE KIND OF PROBLEMS THEY FACE THIS YEAR IN GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND HAVE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD BE HELPFUL. I UNDERSTAND INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL SAW SECRETARY BUTZ EARLIER THIS WEEK. THEY HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED COMMERCIALY ABOUT 1.5 MILLION TONS

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FROM THE U.S. THIS YEAR.

3. QUESTION: HOW MUCH DID THEY ASK FOR?

ANSWER: NO SPECIFIC AMOUNTS WERE DISCUSSED. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAVE NOT REQUESTED PL 480 AID. THEY HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS THE U.S. MIGHT MAKE IN RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL UNGA APPEAL FOR THE MOST SERIOUSLY

AFFECTED COUNTRIES AND IN THAT CONTEXT DESCRIBED TO US INDIA'S OVERALL REQUIREMENTS.

4. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THESE?

ANSWER: THAT'S A QUESTION YOU SHOULD PUT TO THE INDIANS.

5. QUESTION: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE LOOKING AT THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR FOOD PROBLEMS. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. KISSINGER

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